

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 8 is amended to take into account the cancelation of claim 1. New claims 13-18 are added. These claims correspond to original claims 2-7 but now depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 8. No new matter is added due to the amendment to claim 8 and/or the addition of new claims 13-18. Upon entry of this response, claims 8-18 will be pending in the application.

Response to Restriction Requirement

On p. 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has required an election between two groups of claims in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372. In response applicants elect, without traverse, Group 2, claims 8-12, drawn to a software product.

Pursuant to the election above of Group 2, applicants have added new dependent claims 13-18 to the application. These claims correspond to original claims 2-7 but now depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 8. They are directed to the same invention as claim 8, i.e., a software product. As indicated above, these claims are completely supported by the application as originally filed and thus they raise no issue of new matter. It is respectfully requested that new claims 13-18 be examined for patentability together with elected claims 8-12.

As indicated above, claims 1-7 have, accordingly, been canceled from this application without prejudice to or disclaimer of applicants' right to pursue patent protection for the subject matter of one or more of these claims in a subsequent application.

Response to Species Election Requirement

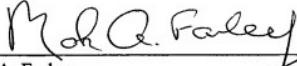
In response to the species election requirement set forth on p. 3 of the Office Action, applicants reiterate their position as originally stated in the response filed November 16, 2006 to the previous Restriction/Election requirement mailed October 16, 2006. That is, the choice of an optional substance and of an index is completely dependent upon the type of an analysis which is to be performed by the user of the claimed method. Some uses of applicants' method require no optional substance at all.

In response to the species election requirement, therefore, applicants elect Species B, claim 8 and index J6 (with no election of an optional substance). Applicants additionally submit that all

of the claims pending upon entry of this Amendment, with the exception of new claims 16 and 17, read on the elected species.

Respectfully submitted,

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